



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

PART I. Purpose of and Need for Action

1. Project Title: Trails End Rifle & Pistol Club

2. Type of Proposed Action:

Indoor shooting range improvements and building additions.

3. Location Affected by Proposed Action: The Trails End Rifle & Pistol Club is located on Snyder Avenue in Glendive, Dawson County, Montana. The club owns four city lots (9, 11, 12, & 13) and maintains an indoor rifle and pistol range on one lot (11). The four lots, 9, 11, 12, & 13 are in T15N, R55E, Section 2, which is in an area known as the Riverview Park Subdivision in the municipality of Glendive. All of the surrounding lots are vacant and unimproved. Lots are 5,640 square feet each. (See paragraph 7, Figure 1)

4. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action: MCA87-1-276 through 87-1-279 (Legislative established policies and procedures for the establishment and improvement of shooting ranges) MCA87-2-105 (Departmental authority to expend funds to provide training in the safe handling and use of firearms and safe hunting practices). The 2007 Montana Legislature has authorized funding for the establishment of a Shooting Range Development Program providing financial assistance for the development of shooting ranges for public purposes. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks has responsibility for the administration of the program, including the necessary guidelines and procedures governing applications for funding assistance under the program.

5. Need for the Action(s): The current shooting club consists of an older building housing an indoor range. Although the club is usually open to any one or any group to shoot, the club has limited its usage of the range to some because the air quality was suspected or being below standard. The bullet trap needs replacement and a new trap that will more adequately contain spent bullets and improve air quality by reducing and exhausting lead from the building is needed. The range also needs to be lengthened to alleviate congestion and allow more room behind the firing line for spectators and those waiting to shoot. There is no water to the building and the facility is serviced by a portable outhouse. Handicap additions are also needed to not only accommodate handicapped

shooters, but to bring the building into compliance with city code. Handicapped and other safety objectives are to maintain level grade for handicapped access, firing line and building extensions to allow wheel chaired shooters & spectators, installation of a handicap bathroom, and installation of a fire hydrant.

6. Objectives for the Action(s): Provide additional shooting activities, improved range safety. The overall objective is to expand the shooting range(s) to provide a variety of safe shooting opportunities. A new bullet trap with an exhaust system will be the main objective with extension of the building to accommodate the new trap and to improve safety through separation of firing line from non-shooters in the facility. Handicap accessibility improvements are also planned. A secondary objective realized from the proposed improvements is that it will increase the types and numbers of people who can safely use the facility for training, competition and recreational shooting.

7. Maps and Supporting Figures:



Figure 1 – Trails End Rifle & Pistol Club, Glendive, MT

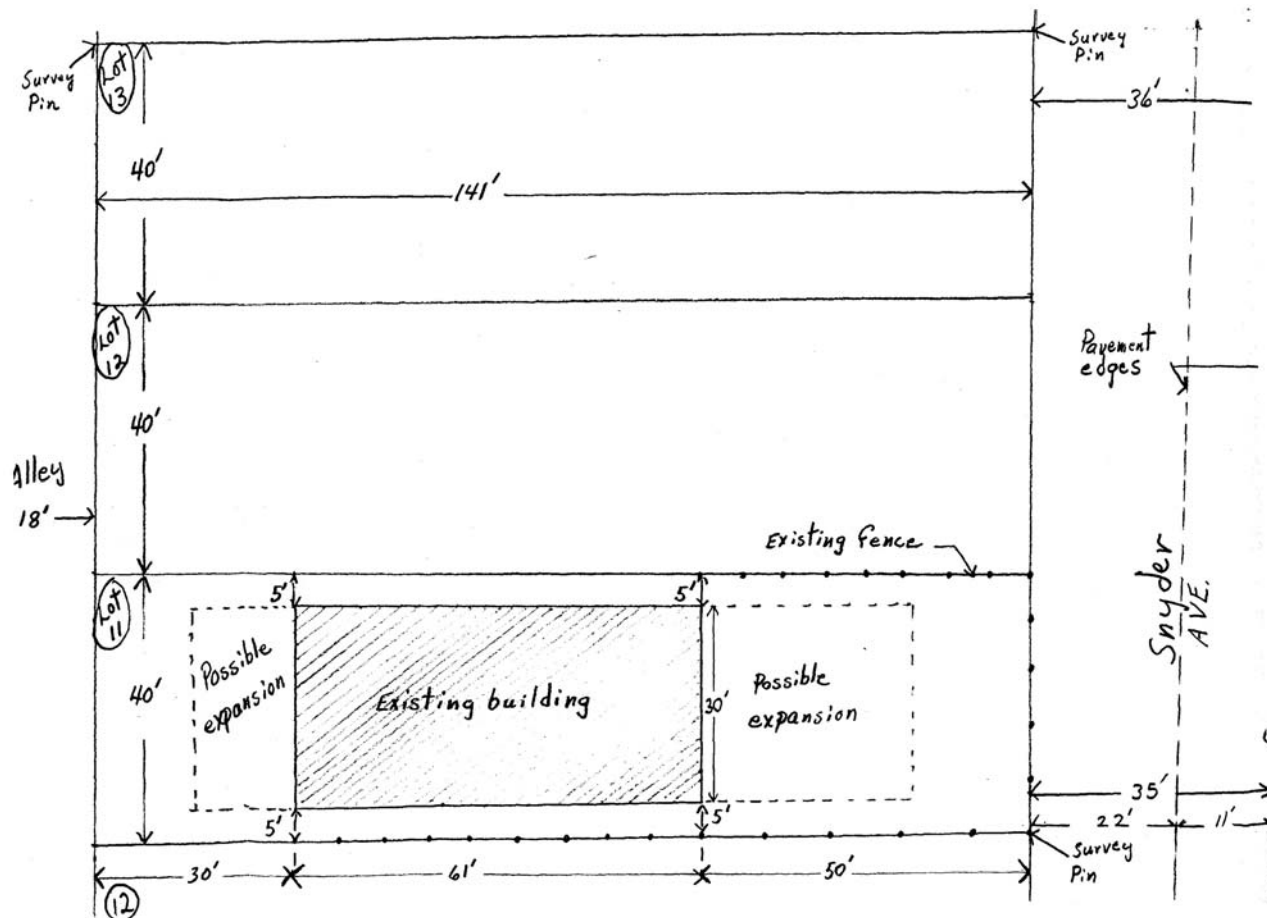


Figure 2 – Existing 30'X60' building on lot 11 with proposed extension(s) on front and rear of building.

8. Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected:

The area for the ranges is approximately 4 city lots, with building improvements safely spread within lot 11, in conjunction with the current building. The proposed septic system drain field will be in lot 12. (See paragraphs 2, 6, & 10, figures 1 & 2).

9. Affected Environment (A brief description of the affected area of the proposed project):

The area affected is the existing Trails End Rifle and Pistol Club, which has been in place for approximately 43 years. The historic land uses was primarily livestock grazing and the existing shooting range is located within the limits of the city of Glendive. All of the surrounding lots are vacant and the range is approximately ¼ mile from the nearest habitable structures. (See Figure 1). Building expansion and improvements are contained on lot 11 and proposed septic drain field will extend into northeast portion of the property and on to lot 12.

10. Description of Project:

The general range improvement project is contained within lot 11 and associated with the existing shooting club building (See paragraphs 2 & 6 and figure 2). Request for FWP funding for proposed projects listed in paragraph 2 will require:

- Installation of septic tank and drain field
- Building construction, to include handicapped bathroom and extension of front and rear of building
- Purchase and installation of new bullet trap
- Installation of new HVAC system
- Installation of fire hydrant

In Accordance With (IAW) contracts agreements with Fish, Wildlife & Parks, all projects are to be completed by June 30, 2009.

11. List any Other Local, State, or Federal Agency that has Overlapping or Additional Jurisdiction:

(a) Permits, Licenses and/or Authorizations:

Agency Name	Permit
City of Glendive	Septic Permit
Dawson County	Septic Permit
Montana	Electrical & Plumbing Permits

Funding Request:

Agency Name	Funding Amount
Glendive Community	\$15,050
Trails End Rifle & Pistol Club	\$ 5,000
Friends of NRA	\$66,375
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	\$81,425

12. Affiliations, Cooperating Agencies, User Groups and/or Supporting Groups:

The Trail's End Rifle and Pistol Club is a membership fee range. The club facility is also available to any community members who request it. The club sponsors and adult and junior small bore program and an adult pistol league. After the proposed improvements the club will be able to accommodate handicapped shooters and other user groups such as hunter safety, 4-H, college law enforcement classes and NRA personal protection programs. Additionally the club will be able to sponsor sanctioned junior small bore matches.

13. History of the Planning and Scoping Process, and Any Public Involvement:

Proposed range improvements proposals have been discussed within the membership of the club, with the associated project vendors and contractors, and the city of Glendive.

14. List of Agencies Consulted/Contacted During Preparation of the EA:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

15. Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor:

Dave Setera, 121 River Rd. Loop, Glendive, MT 59330, (406) 377-4496

16. Other Pertinent Information:

Range proposals will meet city requirements for any improvements to an existing structure to include handicap accessible restroom and washing area and a fire hydrant. Additionally, the nearest fire hydrant is at the far end of Snyder Street 1000 feet away. A new fire hydrant will be installed at the range location. Preliminary plans for this project have been approved by the City of Glendive and the fire chief.

Shooting range applications require the participant's governing body to approve by resolution its submission of applications for shooting range funding assistance. Resolution Date: April 20, 2008

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Abbreviated Checklist – The degree and intensity determines extent of Environmental Review. An abbreviated checklist may be used for those projects that are not complex, controversial, or are not in environmental sensitive areas)

Table 1. Potential impact on physical environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
1. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
2. Terrestrial or aquatic life and/or habitats				X		
3. Introduction of new species into an area				X		
4. Vegetation cover, quantity & quality				X		
5. Water quality, quantity & distribution (surface or groundwater)				X		
6. Existing water right or reservation				X		
7. Geology & soil quality, stability & moisture				X		
8. Air quality or objectionable odors				X		
9. Historical & archaeological sites				X		#9
10. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy				X		
11. Aesthetics				X		

Comments (A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

9. This project uses state funds only and does not take place on state owned or controlled property, therefore the State Antiques act will not apply to this undertaking.

Table 2. Potential impacts on human environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
1. Social structures and cultural diversity				X		
2. Changes in existing public benefits provided by wildlife populations and/or habitat				X		
3. Local and state tax base and tax revenue				X		
4. Agricultural production				X		
5. Human health				X		#5
6. Quantity & distribution of community & personal income				X		
7. Access to & quality of recreational activities				X		#7
8. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals (ordinances)				X		
9. Distribution & density of population and housing				X		
10. Demands for government services				X		
11. Industrial and/or commercial activity				X		

Comments (A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

5. Range site plans, construction and the ongoing operational and maintenance plans meet the standards of safety for the range participants and the public at large.

7. Range will provide year round controlled access and fulfils a need for a range to accommodate law enforcement training, hunter education, and public shooting.

Part III. Environmental Consequences

Does the proposed action involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely harmful if they were to occur? NO

Does the proposed action have impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant? This proposed action has no impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant. Cumulative impacts have been assessed considering any incremental impact of the proposed action when they are combined with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and no significant impacts or substantially controversial issues were found. There are no extreme hazards created with this project and there are no conflicts with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan.

Identification of the Preferred Alternatives:

The proposed alternative A, alternative B and the no action alternative were considered.

- **Alternative A (Proposed Alternative)** is as described in paragraph 10 (Description of Project) make improvements to the existing indoor rifle and pistol range.
- **Alternative B (No Action Alternative)** Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Shooting Sports Grant money would be denied and the facility will remain as an active rifle & pistol range without proposed expansion and improvements.

Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented: Two alternatives have been considered, **A** (Proposed Alternative) and **B** (No Action Alternative). There were no other alternatives that were deemed reasonably available, nor prudent.

Neither the proposed alternative (**A**) nor the no action alternative (**B**) would have any significant negative environmental or potentially negative consequences.

- There are beneficial consequences to Acceptance of the **Proposed Alternative (A)** increasing shooting sports opportunities at the Trails End Rifle & Pistol Club and in the Glendive area are to install a new bullet trap, add a handicapped restroom, fire hydrant and extend the length of the existing building.
- The **No Action Alternative (B)** would be not to expand the range with additional shooting opportunities and to continue on with present shooting activities and facilities. Land use would remain the same. Present activities include an indoor rifle & pistol range without the new trap, building extensions or handicapped improvements. Therefore the proposed alternative is the prudent alternative.

Describe any Alternatives considered and eliminated from Detailed Study:

NONE

List and explain proposed mitigative measures (stipulations):

NONE

Individuals or groups contributing to, or commenting on, this EA:

Dave Setera, 121 River Rd. Loop, Glendive, MT 59330

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

PART IV NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

All of the pertinent or potential impacts of the project have been reviewed, discussed, and analyzed. None of the project reviewed were complex, controversial, or located in an environmentally sensitive area. The projects being proposed are on properties owned by the Trails End Rifle & Pistol Club. The low impact activities proposed, and the increased recreational opportunity, all indicate that this should be considered the final version of the environmental assessment. There are no significant environmental or economic impacts associated with the proposed alternative (A). The 43 year history of the Trails End Rifle & Pistol Club providing shooting opportunities to its members and the public indicates support for the proposed alternative. Therefore, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks should approve the proposed alternative (A) for the modernization and expansion proposals outlined in Para. 2 & 10.

EA prepared by: GENE R. HICKMAN

Ecological Assessments

Helena, MT 59602

Date Completed: August 26, 2008

PART IV. EA CONCLUSION SECTION

Recommendation and justification concerning preparation of EIS:

None required.

Describe public involvement, if any:

Announcement for EA comment will be published in the Glendive Ranger Review and on the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks website to allow an opportunity for public review.

Additionally the EA will be available for review on the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks website.